In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] Method for conducting

2 communications within collaboration space, comprising the

3 steps of:

4   organizing said collaboration space to include a place;

5   said place being implemented as a directory including

6   two databases, main database including an access

7   control list for specifying roles of users as managers,

8   authors or readers authorized to access said place, and

9   a names database specifying for said place those users

10   authorized to access said place; and

11   establishing synchronous communications as a chat

12   session between two or more parties visiting said place

13   who pass authentication with respect to said access

14   control list and said members list.

1   2.   [Original]   The method of claim 1, said collaboration

2   space being further organized according to an object model

3   including said place, and further including room, folder,

4   page, member, form, field, placetype, roomtype, skin, and

5   placebot objects.

1   3.   [Original]   The method of claim 1, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   presenting said collaboration space to each said party

4   at respective browsers;

5   displaying at said browsers a graphical user interface

6   including a chat window for presenting to each said

7   party the identity of other parties visiting said place

8   and selectors for requesting and accepting said

9   synchronous communications.

1   4.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, further comprising

2   the step of:

3   responsive to place manager input, selectively enabling

4   said synchronous communications.

1   5.   [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   displaying a chat session transcript in respective chat

4   windows to all parties participating in said chat

5   session.

1   6.   [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising

2   the step of:

3   responsive to party selection, selectively opening or

4   opening and minimizing said chat window, said chat

5   session including those parties which have opened or

6   opened and minimized said chat window.

1   7.   [Currently amended] Method for communicating between

2   users in collaboration space, comprising the steps of:

3   establishing a place within said collaboration space

4	including two databases, a main database including an
5	access control list for specifying roles of users as
6	managers, authors or readers authorized to access said
7	place, and a names database specifying for said place
8	those users authorized as members to access said place;

9	[[and]] enabling a chat feature among members of said
10	place;

11	authenticating a user as a member in said names
12	database and as having a role in said access control
13	list; and

14	responsive to member selection, enabling a user who is
15	a member of said place to chat selectively with one
16	other member, a plurality of other members, or with all
17	members of said place who currently have an open chat
18	window.

1	8. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2	the step of:

3	displaying in a chat window of each member joining a

4   chat session for said place a transcript of said

5   session.

1   9.   [Original]   The method of claim 7, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   responsive to user selection at said chat window, for

4   said user selectively joining a chat session, sending a

5   chat message, replying to a chat message, leaving said

6   chat session, and extending a chat invitation to

7   another user.

1   10.   [Original]   The method of claim 7, further comprising

2   the step of opening said chat window to enable receipt of an

3   invitation to join a chat session.

1   11.   [Original]   The method of claim 10, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   displaying in said chat window a list of members

4   currently active in said place; and

5   sending a chat message to a member selected from said

6   list.

1   12. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising

2   the steps of:

3   selecting from said list a plurality of members

4   currently active in said place; and

5   sending an invitation to join a chat session to said

6   plurality of members.

1   13. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising

2   the step responsive to receiving a chat message from a first

3   member of said place, communicating said chat message to all

4   members currently active in said place.

1   14. [Original] The method of claim 13, said members

2   currently active in said place being all members in said

3   list, and said chat message being displayed in a transcript

4   area of said chat window.

1   15.   [Original]   The method of claim 9, further comprising
2   the steps of:

3   displaying an invitation dialog box at the browser of a
4   member of said place receiving an invitation to join a
5   chat session;

6   said invitation dialog box providing buttons for user
7   selection to respond to said invitation to the sender
8   only, to join said chat session, or to decline said
9   invitation and close said dialog box.

1   16.   [Original]   The method of claim 15, further comprising
2   the step of:

3   providing at said browser a selectable control for
4   defining this user's availability state and toggling
5   off said chat feature to an awareness selector, said
6   awareness selector upon selection displaying said list.

1   17.   [Original]   The method of claim 16, said awareness

2   selector being reciprocal to prevent lurking.

1   18.   [Original]   The method of claim 17, further comprising

2   the step of maintaining said availability state persistent

3   across sessions.

1   19.   [Original]   The method of claim 18, further comprising

2   the step of loading a transcript of a prior session to said

3   chat window upon being opened.

1   20.   [Original]   System for synchronous communications

2   between users in collaboration space, comprising:

3   a server;

4   a plurality of browsers for presenting user interfaces

5   to a place in said collaboration space; said place

6   including two databases, a main database including an

7   access control list for specifying roles of users as

8   managers, authors or readers authorized to access said

9   place, and a names database specifying for said place

10   those users authorized as members to access said place;

11   and

12   said user interface including a chat window for

13   displaying messages and replies to messages as a

14   temporary transcript of a chat session among members of

15   said place authenticated with respect to said access

16   control list and said names database.

1   21.   [Original] The system of claim 20, further comprising:

2   said user interface including a sidebar selector for

3   opening said chat session;

4   responsive to said selector, said chat window

5   displaying a list of members with open chat windows to

6   said place;

7   responsive to user selection of a selected member from

8   said list, establishing synchronous communications with

9   said selected member.

1   22. [Original] The system of claim 21, further comprising

2   a selector button for minimizing said chat window thereby

3   continuing said user as a member of said chat session while

4   clearing said user interface of said chat window.

1   23. [Original] The system of claim 22, further comprising

2   a chat button for opening said chat window to initiate a

3   chat session and receive invitations to join chat sessions.

1   24. [Original] The system of claim 23, further comprising

2   an option menu associated with said chat window for entering

3   invitations to a plurality of members selected from said

4   list to join a chat session.

1   25. [Original] The system of claim 24, further comprising

2   a secure message selector operable upon selection to prevent

3   interception of said messages and replies to messages.

1   26. [Currently amended] The system of claim 24, further

2   comprising:

3   an invitation dialog box for display ~~at the~~ <u>at a</u>

4   browser of a member of said place receiving an

5   invitation to join a chat session;

6   said invitation dialog box providing buttons for user

7   selection to respond to said invitation to the sender

8   only, to join said chat session, or to decline said

9   invitation and close said dialog box.

1   27.   [Original] The system of claim 26, further comprising:

2   a user selectable control for defining this user's

3   availability state and toggling off said chat feature

4   to an awareness selector, said awareness selector upon

5   selection displaying said list.

1   28.   [Original] The system of claim 27, said awareness

2   selector being reciprocal to prevent lurking.

1   29.   [Original] The system of claim 27, said availability

2   state being persistent across sessions.

1   30.   [Original] The system of claim 29, said chat window

2   further upon being opened loading a transcript of a prior

3   session.

1   31.   [Original] A program storage device readable by a

2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3   executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4   conducting communications within collaboration space, said

5   method steps comprising:

6   organizing said collaboration space to include a place

7   including two databases, a main database including an

8   access control list for specifying roles of users as

9   managers, authors or readers authorized to access said

10   place, and a names database specifying for said place

11   those users authorized as members to access said place;

12   said place being implemented as a directory; and

13   establishing synchronous communications as a chat

14   session between two or more parties visiting said place

15   who have been authenticated with reference to said

16   access control list and said names database.

1   32. [Original] A program storage device readable by a

2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for

4 conducting communications within collaboration space, said

5 method steps comprising:

6   establishing a place within said collaboration space

7   and enabling a chat feature among members of said

8   place; said place including two databases, a main

9   database including an access control list for

10   specifying roles of users as managers, authors or

11   readers authorized to access said place, and a names

12   database specifying for said place those users

13   authorized as members to access said place; and

14   responsive to member selection, enabling a user who is

15   a member of said place to chat selectively with one

16   other member, a plurality of other members, or with all

17   members of said place who currently have an open chat

18   window.

1   33. [Original] A computer program product or computer

2   program element for conducting communications within

3   collaboration space by organizing said collaboration space

4   to include a place comprising two databases, a main database

5   including an access control list for specifying roles of

6   users as managers, authors or readers authorized to access

7   said place, and a names database specifying for said place

8   those users authorized as members to access said place; said

9   place being implemented as a directory; and establishing

10   synchronous communications as a chat session between two or

11   more parties visiting said place.